



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

MICHAEL A. RAMOS

District Attorney

DATE: July 24, 2009

Statement from the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office

San Bernardino, CA - This Office is astounded at Supervisor Derry's call for an investigation of the District Attorney, who is currently involved in political corruption prosecutions of Derry's former Chief of Staff, a former elected official and several former County employees. The allegations referenced in Derry's press release are based on rumors that were widely circulated only after recent prosecutions were initiated. District Attorney Michael Ramos stated, "I categorically deny these baseless allegations. This has every appearance of being an effort to interfere in our continuing corruption investigation. I will not be deterred from my legal responsibility to vigorously pursue these cases."

If the Board Supervisors chooses to initiate an investigation, the District Attorney and this Office will fully cooperate. However, the timing of this request for an investigation concerns us. The public should be aware that the focus of our ongoing investigation includes the \$102 million Colonies settlement approved by the Board in 2006, and the effort to transfer 1200 acres of County land to developers in the Rancho Cucamonga area in 2009. Members of the Board and their staffs, and other County employees have already been interviewed, and the Board is fully aware of our inquiry. An unwarranted investigation of the District Attorney may unnecessarily introduce legal issues into our current prosecutions and would interfere with our ongoing corruption investigation.

As we have for many months, we continue to update and confer regularly with the Attorney General's Office concerning our investigation. They remain supportive of our efforts and of the cases we have filed. The Attorney General's Office has concluded that this Office has no conflicts of interest and that we should continue to pursue our investigation and handle the prosecutions that have been initiated.

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